

Pell Collection Circular

[Stephen Hyatt Pellhan]; [Indian Peace medals]

[undated]

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY AT 156th STREET
NEW YORK

Mr. Stephen H. P. Pell has placed in my hands his collection of United States Indian Peace Medals, and a few other very rare medals relating to this country, and has made the following generous offer:-

To contribute one third to the purchase of these medals for the Society's collection, at a fair valuation, provided other members of the Society contribute the remaining two thirds.

The collection consists of:

1st. A very fine specimen of the large oval engraved medal given by, or on behalf of, Washington, to important Indian chiefs, the size of this medal is 5 x 7 inches. A similar one, which was given to the celebrated chief Red Jacket, is in the Museum of the Buffalo Historical Society, an other specimen is in the Mitchelson collection, which belongs to the State of Connecticut and is in the State Library at Hartford. I know of no others except one of a much smaller size which is in Montreal.

2nd. A set of the three excessively rare Washington Season Medals in silver, in beautiful condition. These medals were also used as gifts to Indians during Washington's second term. I question if there exists an other set in such fine condition.

3rd. Twenty three Indian Peace Medals - each of which has actually been awarded to an Indian chief or man of importance in his tribe, - representing each of the Presidents from John Adams to Andrew Johnson, also Benjamin Harrison, with the exception of William Henry Harrison, who issued no Indian medals, and Millard Fillmore.

4th. Silver medal, awarded by Congress to an officer of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Capt. Isaac Hull, for the capture of the British Frigate Guerriere, August 19, 1812.

5th. Three British War Medals, for actions in the War of 1812, as follows:-
Army medal for the battle of Chateauguay, October 26, 1813.

Naval medal for the capture of the Chesapeake by the Shannon, June 1, 1813.

Naval medal for the capture of the President by the Endymion, January 15, 1815.

The Society's collection of the Presidential Indian Peace Medals contains but thirteen specimens, of which seven, including Millard Fillmore and Ulysses S. Grant, are not in Mr. Pell's collection, the acquisition of which would give us thirty one out of a possible forty seven medals, the only presidents, who issued these medals, lacking, being Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland.

The six duplicates that we have would be most useful for purposes of exchange for specimens needed. I now know of two medals that can possibly be acquired in this way.

This is a splendid opportunity to obtain a great collection of the United States Indian medals, which form one of the most important and interesting series relating to our country. The Indians prize them highly, hence they are hard to obtain and command high prices. The opportunity to acquire the Washington medal may never occur again, the same might be said of the complete set of the Season Medals in silver.

The war medals are of great rarity and interest, representing as they do events in the war of 1812.

The value placed upon the entire collection is eighteen hundred dollars, of this amount Mr. Pell's contribution of one third is six hundred dollars, leaving twelve hundred dollars to be raised.

The collection is the result of twenty years work and an outlay greater than the value placed upon it. It would be impossible to duplicate it, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Pell's generosity will inspire other members to make up the remaining amount.

The Society's field is universal, but there can be no question of the fact that the specialties in which it should excel are those that are connected with the history of our own country, and this will be a notable achievement in that direction.

Bauman L. Bellon,

Secretary.

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To contribute one third to the purchase of these medals for the Society's collection, at a fair valuation, provided other members of the Society contribute the remaining two thirds.

The collection consists of:

- 1st. A very fine specimen of the large oval engraved medal given by, or on behalf of, Washington, to important Indian chiefs, the size of this medal is 5 x 7 inches. A similar one, which was given to the celebrated chief Red Jacket, is in the Museum of the Buffalo Historical Society, an other specimen which is in the Mitchelson collection, belongs to the State of Connecticut and is in the State Library at Hartford. I know of no others except one of a much smaller size, which is in Montreal.
- 2nd. A set of the three excessively rare Washington Season Medals in silver, in beautiful condition. These medals were also used as gifts to Indians during Washington's second term. I question if there exists an other set in such fine condition.
- 3rd. Twenty three Indian Peace Medals - each of which has actually been awarded to an Indian chief or man of importance in his tribe, - representing each of the Presidents from John Adams to Andrew Johnson, also Benjamin Harrison, with the exception of William Henry Harrison, who issued no Indian medals, and Millard Fillmore. There are from one to three medals of each president, the variations being in size.

- th Silver medal, awarded by Congress to an officer of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Capt. Isaac Hull, for the capture of the British Frigate Guerriere, August 19, 1813.
- th. Three British War Medals, for actions in the War of 1813, as follows:-
 Army medal for the battle of Chateauguay, October 26, 1813.
 Naval medal for the capture of the Chesapeake by the Shannon, June 1, 1813.
 Naval medal for the capture of the Chesapeake President by the Endymion, January 16, 1815.

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The war medals are of great rarity and interest, representing as they do, events in the War of 1813.

The value placed upon the entire collection is sixteen hundred dollars, of this amount Mr. Pell's contribution of one third is six hundred dollars, leaving ten hundred dollars to be raised.

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Bauman L. Belden,

Secretary.

Either Mr. Wood or Mr. Noe
has the rest of the corres-
pondence connected with the
Pell Collection.

See also Indian Peace Medal Folder.

England - William the Conqueror

Coins of William the Conqueror; On the,
by R. S.

Num. Chron., 1840, v. 2, p. 42-47.

original back tab of folder

Linke, Gladwin